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## Austria

### Poultry and Products

### Avian Flu Update

**2006**

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**Report Highlights:**

On February 14, the Austrian Ministry of Health confirmed the first two cases of avian flu in swans. Three weeks later, the number of confirmed H5N1 cases found in various waterfowls and chickens has grown to 36. Also, this week three cats have tested positive for bird flu. Since the first outbreak, about 800 birds have been tested for the virus. The Austrian Government has established seven protection zones around the infected areas.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
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Unscheduled Report  
Vienna [AU1]  
[AU]

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### Number of Confirmed H5N1 Cases

On February 14, the Austrian Ministry of Health confirmed the first two cases of avian flu in swans. Three weeks later, the number of confirmed H5N1 cases found in various waterfowls and chickens has climbed to 36. Also, this week three cats tested positive for bird flu. Since the first outbreak, about 800 birds have been tested for the virus.

### Protection Zones

The Austrian Government has established seven protection zones around the infected area. Within the three-kilometer protection zones around an outbreak the following measures to prevent the spread of the virus were imposed. The zones will be in effect as long as necessary, with a minimum of at least 21 days.

- ❑ All poultry holdings must be inspected and if necessary tested by official veterinarians.
- ❑ Poultry must be kept indoors.
- ❑ Ducks and geese must be separated from other poultry.
- ❑ On-farm security measures, such as disinfection at entrances and exits, have to be implemented.
- ❑ The dispatch of poultry, poultry meat, and hatching eggs outside the zone is forbidden. The competent authorities may approve exceptions under official control for well-founded cases. Eggs for consumption are exempted.
- ❑ Transport vehicles that are used for the transport of poultry and poultry products within a protection zone must only leave the protection zone after official control and approval.
- ❑ The dispatch of unprocessed litter or manure (except transport for processing) is prohibited.

### Surveillance Zones

In addition to the protection zones, the Austrian Government established surveillance zones that cover a larger area surrounding bird flu cases with less stringent measures. Please find below the measures that are in effect within a 10 km surveillance zone surrounding an outbreak. The zones will be in effect as long as necessary, with a minimum of at least 30 days.

- ❑ Poultry must be kept indoors.
- ❑ Ducks and geese must be separated from other poultry.
- ❑ Amplified cleaning and disinfection measures.
- ❑ The dispatch of poultry and other captive birds is banned for the first 15 days following the establishment of the zone. The competent authorities may approve exceptions.
- ❑ The dispatch of hatching eggs is prohibited. The competent authorities may approve exceptions. Eggs and packages of eggs have to be disinfected.
- ❑ Poultry farmers, carriers, and traders have to keep records of all movements of poultry.

### **Additional Measures that Apply to Protection and Surveillance Zones**

- ❑ Poultry and other bird fairs/shows are prohibited.
- ❑ Hunting of wild birds is prohibited.
- ❑ The finding of dead waterfowls must be reported to the competent authorities. The competent official veterinarian must send those birds to the national reference laboratory.

### **Measures that Apply to the Whole of Austria**

On February 19, the whole of Austria was declared an “at risk area” according to the Austrian contingency plan. Except for the mandatory housing of birds, the following measures apply to the whole of Austria until May 31. Poultry must be kept indoors until April 30.

- ❑ Compulsory registration for all holdings of poultry and other birds.
- ❑ All animal fairs/shows have to be notified and controlled by an official veterinarian. The competent authority may ban the shows.
- ❑ Ducks and geese must be separated from other poultry.
- ❑ Poultry must be kept indoors. The official veterinarian may approve exceptions (e.g. for ostriches). In those cases, the animals have to be tested at the expense of the holder.
- ❑ Hunting of wild birds is prohibited.
- ❑ Stringent measures for suspected cases in domestic flocks.
- ❑ Mandatory notification of dead found wild birds.

## The current seven protection zones and the number of confirmed H5N1 cases

### 1) Protection Zone District Graz-Umgebung (Province Styria)

established 02/14/2006

#### Number of confirmed H5N1 cases:

Calendar Week 7 (February 13 to 19)

- 5 Swans
- 1 Chicken
- 3 Ducks
- 2 Waterfowls

Calendar Week 8 (February 20 to 26)

- 1 Duck
- 1 Swan

### 2) Protection Zone District Hartberg (Province Styria)

established 02/17/2006

Calendar Week 7 (February 13 to 19)

- 1 Muscovy Duck

### 3) Protection Zone District Wien-Umgebung (Province Vienna)

established 02/18/2006

Calendar Week 7 (February 13 to 19)

- 1 Wild Duck (strong suspicion, not yet confirmed)

### 4) Protection Zone District Wien-Floridsdorf (Province Vienna)

established 02/18/2006

Calendar Week 7 (February 13 to 19)

- 1 Swan (strong suspicion, not yet confirmed)

### 5) Protection Zone District Graz-Stadt (Province Styria)

established 02/22/2006

Calendar Week 7 (February 13 to 19)

- 2 Swans
- 1 Goose
- 6 Ducks
- 5 Chickens

### 6) Protection Zone District Bruck an der Mur (Province Styria)

established 03/203/2006

Calendar Week 9 (February 27 to March 5)

- 1 Wild Duck

## 7) Protection Zone District Bregenz (Province Vorarlberg)

established 03/203/2006

Calendar Week 9 (February 27 to March 5)

2 Great Crested Grebes

1 Seagull

1 Mallard Duck

1 Wild Duck

Total number of confirmed H5N1 cases found in birds: 36

Total number of confirmed H5N1 cases found in cats: 3

## Poultry Production in Austria

Poultry production in Austria is concentrated in the northern, southeastern and southern regions of Austria. The southeastern part of the Styria province, which is one of the main poultry production areas, has had major occurrences of H5N1 cases. Figure 1 shows a map of Austria and the distribution of poultry throughout the federal territory.

In December 2003, the animal census showed the following commercial poultry numbers in Austria.

Broilers: 5,828,735

Laying hens: 6,525,623

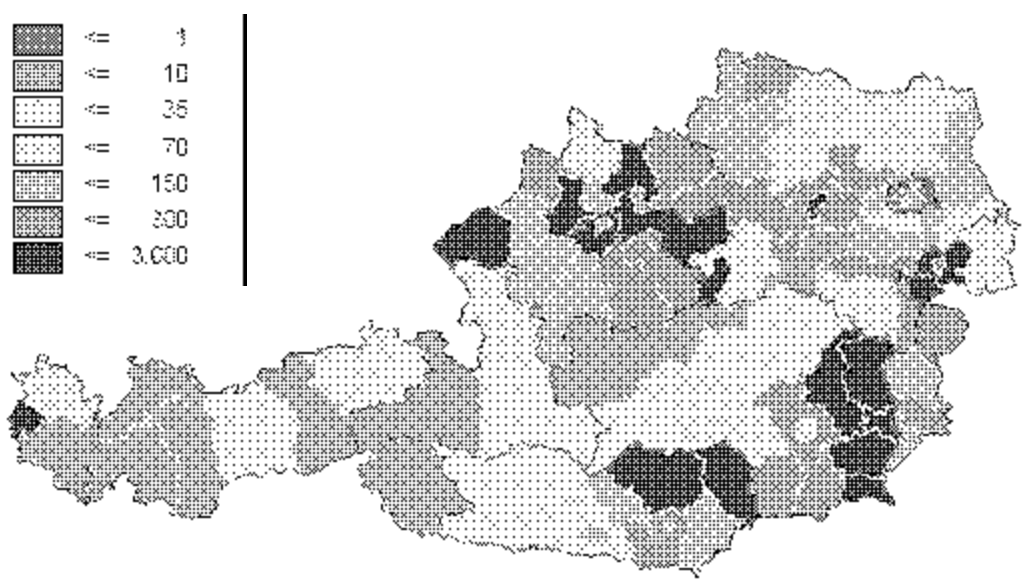
Turkeys: 550,041

Ducks: 82,705

Geese: 19,528

Others\*): 20,463

\*) Guinea fowls, ostriches, etc.



**Figure 1: Density of poultry in Austria, heads per square kilometer.** Source: Ministry for Health and Women